

Date Mailed July 10, 2002
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BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Wisconsin Power and Light Company, as a Public Utility,  
For Authorization to Provide Natural Gas Service to a Certain Area 6680-CG-148  
Annexed to the Village of McFarland, Dane County, Wisconsin

**NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION**

**THIS IS AN INVESTIGATION** considering the May 24, 2002, application of Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WP&L) for authority under Wis. Stat. § 196.49 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 133 to continue to provide natural gas service to a certain area annexed by the village of McFarland in March of 1962.

WP&L is a public utility engaged in the business of providing natural gas public utility service to approximately 153,000 customers in the State of Wisconsin. WP&L has been providing natural gas service to customers in the village of McFarland since 1962, under the authority granted by the order of the Commission in Docket No. CA-4068 on February 12, 1962.

In its order in docket 3270-DR-103 dated October 2, 2000, the Commission found that WP&L had violated PSC 133.03(1)(j) in extending natural gas utility service to a recently annexed area of the village of McFarland. In that order, the Commission expressed a policy of requiring “strict adherence to the statutes and to the administrative code” in regards to such extensions. Those Commission rules require a natural gas utility to apply for and obtain authority from the PSCW in order to provide natural gas service to areas annexed by a municipality, unless the utility already has facilities in the area and the exclusive right to serve the area has been established. Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 133.03(1)(j).

As a result of the order in docket 3270-DR-103, WP&L has reviewed a number of areas in which it currently provides natural gas utility service in order to determine whether any similar situations exist elsewhere. WP&L has found a portion within the village of McFarland that was annexed by the village in 1962 and believes it requires such authorization.

WP&L began providing natural gas utility service in the area in the early 1970’s. Prior to that WP&L states it provided service to all of the adjoining areas pursuant to the authorization granted by the Commission in Docket No. CA-4068. WP&L currently serves approximately six commercial customers in this area.

The Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be

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incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

This is a Type III action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(3). No unusual circumstances have come to the attention of the Commission which indicate that significant environmental consequences are likely. Neither an environmental impact statement under Wis. Stat. § 1.11 nor an environmental assessment is required.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator John R. Vogt at (608) 267-3374.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

For the Commission:

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Lynda L. Dorr  
Secretary to the Commission

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